

Daily Report

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Cameroon

Togo's Eyadema Meets With Biya, Leaves for Abuja

AB0303203994 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 3 Mar 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Very little is being said about the state of play in the border row between Cameroon and Nigeria over the Bakassi Peninsula and the islands in the Gulf of Guinea. The region has been the scene of clashes, of troop movements, and flight of populations of Nigerian nationals. Now, President Eyadema of Togo has turned up in Yaounde, the capital of Cameroon, setting speculative tongues wagging. On the line to Yaounde, Ajoa Yeboah-Afari asked our reporter, William Moles, if it was known what President Eyadema was doing there:

[Begin recording] [Moles] Well, nothing has been said, especially, yet. In fact, the government has been tight-lipped over all the negotiations that have been going on in the last few weeks. But I do know that President Eyadema met with President Paul Biya this morning for half an hour, but I have just missed them at the Hilton at lunch time. I just heard from sources at state television that he is now on his way to Abuja. They also said that he had sent his foreign minister to Abuja on Monday [28 February]. So, I don't think there is much doubt that he is here in some kind of negotiating role between Nigeria and Cameroon. Also, sources at the Foreign Ministry here told me that President Omar Bongo from Gabon will also be arriving in Yaounde shortly. State radio reported earlier on this week that he wanted to use his experience to negotiate between Nigeria and Cameroon over the Bakassi dispute.

[Yeboah-Afari] We understand that there is also a French naval vessel nearby. Can you confirm this?

[Moles] Yes, I can confirm this. I have had confirmation of this from the French Embassy here. At the Nigerian Embassy, they are rather alarmed by the arrival of this French frigate they call the (Vondemiere). It came to the port in Douala last night with a crew of about 90 sailors. At the French Embassy they say that it is just here for a routine surveillance trip and that they were also here last September. But obviously, the Nigerians here are naturally a bit skeptical about that.

[Yeboah-Afari] Well, we understand that the French Embassy are saying that the current round of negotiations are going on quite smoothly. What would you say to this?

[Moles] Well, they haven't actually revealed a great deal about negotiations. All they did say to me was that there has been some progress in the negotiations after their meetings in Abuja on Tuesday [1 March], and they also said that the fierce pronouncements of Baba Kingibe,

Nigeria's foreign minister, in a press conference yesterday, were rhetorical and they didn't really say the atmosphere in which they talks were conducted. They really have not said much more than that. [end recording]

Biya Urges Lasting Solution

AB0303215994 Paris AFP in French 1951 GMT
3 Mar 94

[Text] Yaounde, 3 Mar (AFP)—Cameroonian President Paul Biya said today in Yaounde that he wanted a "peaceful, final, and lasting solution" to the border dispute between his country and Nigeria over the Bakassi Peninsula. In a very short statement on national television following the visit of Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema, President Biya expressed his "desire to seek a final, lasting, and peaceful solution," the television quoted him as saying. "My brother and friend Eyadema and I had similar views on the development and promotion of peace on the continent," Mr. Biya added.

President Biya, who was publicly mentioning this conflict for the first time, did not comment on the latest declarations by Nigerian External Relations Minister Babagana Kingibe. The Nigerian minister said yesterday that the situation at the border "could explode if nothing is done quickly to return to dialogue."

President Eyadema, who has been asked to mediate in the dispute between the two countries, called on African leaders "to do everything to find an African solution to the conflict," according to national television. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry said today that Cameroon has requested intervention by the OAU in the dispute. Egypt is the current chairman of the OAU. This request will be examined at an emergency meeting of the OAU, which was created in June 1993 for the prevention and settlement of inter-African conflicts.

At the end of his discussions with his Cameroonian counterpart, President Eyadema went to Nigeria where he met the head of state, General Sani Abacha, sources close to the Nigerian presidency in Abuja pointed out.

French Ministry Views Delegation's Efforts

LD0303173894 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Excerpts] The border dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria on the Bakassi Peninsula has taken on a new dimension. Nigerian Foreign Minister Babagana Kingibe says the situation could become explosive if something is not done quickly to get back to dialogue, but above all, he directly attacked France. In the view of the Nigerian foreign minister, Paris is a party to the border conflict. [passage omitted]

The French delegation, which was in Nigeria, returned to France today after further talks with the Cameroonian authorities. Catherine Colonna, deputy spokesperson of

the French Foreign Ministry, summed up the results of these visits, in answer to questions put to her by Adala Benraad:

[Begin recording] [Colonna] The mission returned early this morning. Its members are going to give an account of their talks to the French authorities. It was a mission of fact-finding and discussion; it was not a question of mediation or anything else. We spoke to both sides in the same terms; that is, the situation is still worrying and the tension between the two countries over their disagreement is a matter of concern to us. Also, we believe the international community should help the two sides to achieve a solution to their disagreement by peaceful means.

[Benraad] Is the matter going to be referred to the Security Council or the International Court of The Hague?

[Colonna] Cameroon asked that the matter be referred to the Security Council several days ago. France, which has been chairman of the Security Council since 1 March, has held consultations on the matter, and, in accordance with its duty as chairman, will make a decision regarding this meeting. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Media Comment on Bakassi Peninsula Conflict

AB0303164694 Paris AFP in French 1222 GMT
3 Mar 94

[Text] Yaounde, 3 Mar (AFP)—Cameroonian media ran a number of articles today on the Nigeria-Cameroon border conflict. The media ran numerous calls to be "vigilant," and questioned the possibility of a possible "costly war." Independent newspapers openly criticized the "silence" observed by the Yaounde government on the matter.

The weekly LA NOUVELLE EXPRESSION ran an article titled "Sani Abacha Wants a War" in which it disclosed that France, which has sent a high-ranking delegation to the two countries, was "now caught in the middle," involved in a nonaggression pact with Cameroon and caught up with "its interests" in Nigeria.

Yaounde media were especially critical of the manner in which Cameroonian authorities are handling the situation. LE MESSENGER says that the decision made by the country and announced on 21 February to take the matter to the International Court of Justice at The Hague is "inadmissible" due to "improper procedure."

Furthermore, the newspapers blame the government for its "silence." Neither Paul Biya nor his government has expressed an opinion on the conflict on the Bakassi Peninsula. LA DETENTE denounced "the impotence of a decaying power."

Other newspapers, such as PERSPECTIVES HEBDO, describe the conflict as "a crude plot by foreign secret

services" and that "Paul Biya and Sani Abacha are taking this opportunity to divert the attention of the people."

Only LA DETENTE condemns some of its colleagues who "have a tendency to enjoy the misfortunes of the regime," especially by spreading rumors, like DIKALO, which stated that the 18 and 19 February clashes killed "180 people on the Nigerian side and four on the Cameroonian side." LA DETENTE reminded the public that "this is a very serious issue."

Cameroonian television invited Cameroonians to be "vigilant." In a program broadcast during the evening of the 2 March conflict, Cameroonian television asked the public "to sleep with one eye open, because the enemy never sleeps." The presenter, reacting to a Nigerian proposal suggesting a bilateral settlement of the conflict without foreign interference, stated that this proposal was "a trick to deceive Cameroonians." However, he added that Cameroon and Nigeria had no interest in "engaging in a costly war."

Recalling the principle of the inviolability of the border, the television said that "Cameroon was ready to defend any part of its national territory. In the television studio, jurists and professors in the field of international relations denounced "Nigeria's moves toward annexation," reaffirming the "non-negotiable character of Bakassi, which is an integral part of Cameroon."

The television presenter also affirmed that about three million Nigerians were living in Cameroon and regretted that "despite the sense of hospitality showed by Cameroonians, these Nigerians do not always abide by the laws of the land that welcomed them."

Chad

Interior Minister Blames CSNPD for Talks Fiasco

AB0403113094 Paris AFP in French 1448 GMT
3 Mar 94

[Text] Ndjamen, 3 Mar (AFP)—Chadian Interior Minister Abderamane Izzo today accused Moise Kette, chairman of the National Awakening Committee for Peace and Democracy [CSNPD], a political and military movement operating in the south of Chad, of causing the failure of the recent peace talks in Bangui. "Through the CSNPD's fault and because of its intransigence, we were only able to examine a certain number of problems," the minister, who led the government delegation to the Bangui talks at the end of February, stated on national radio. The objective of these talks, which were held under the auspices of the Central African Republic [CAR] authorities, was to sign a peace agreement between the government and the CSNPD. They only resulted in the signing of a simple joint communique between the two sides.

"Right from the start, the CSNPD laid down conditions. When one goes to a negotiation and starts with conditions, it often does not bode well," Mr. Izzo added. Despite this, he added, "we examined these conditions, but the meeting was only able to agree on matters of principle, particularly on the cease-fire, the withdrawal of the republican guards from the south of the country, and the free movement of goods and persons."

According to reliable sources, Moise Kette had demanded at the opening of the talks the withdrawal of the republican guards—an elite unit under the exclusive orders of President Idriss Deby—as well as the holding of a referendum within a short time in order to institute federalism in Chad. The republican guards have been accused of molesting civilians in the south of the country, thus provoking a massive exodus towards the CAR. In June 1993, a cease-fire agreement was signed between the Chadian Government and the CSNPD.

Gabon

Bongo Invites Political Party Leaders To Meet

AB0303205394 Paris AFP in French 1435 GMT
3 Mar 94

[Text] Libreville, 3 Mar (AFP)—President Omar Bongo today invited "all the leaders of legally recognized political parties" to meet him on 7 March, following the civil strife that claimed nine lives in Libreville last week, according to official sources. This meeting is "part of necessary consultations with various national political actors with a view to reinforcing democracy," a communique published by the government daily L'UNION stated.

The government blamed the main opposition party, the National Lumberjacks Rally (RNB) and its leader, Father Paul Mba Abessole, for the violence that erupted in several districts of the capital, following a general strike called by a labor union close to the opposition. The labor union was demanding wage increases in the aftermath of the 11 January CFA franc devaluation.

The RNB has not yet made a decision either to participate or not in the 7 March meeting. Its general assembly is slated for tomorrow, a party spokesman disclosed.

Rwanda

President Meets With UN, Tanzanian Envoys

EA0403100994 Kigali Radiodiffusion Nationale de la Republique Rwandaise in French 0430 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] President Habyarimana yesterday received the UN secretary general's special representative, Jacques-Roger Booh Booh, and Tanzanian Ambassador Stanley

Tambwe. Jacques-Roger Booh Booh and Stanley Tambwe expressed their optimism concerning progress in talks aimed at achieving the establishment of the national assembly and the transitional government. The two expressed their satisfaction with the fact that there are no further problems concerning the establishment of parliament but expressed the strong wish that difficulties relating to the establishment of a government extended to include the Rwandan Patriotic Front would be speedily resolved.

Zaire

Kengo Wa Dondo To Run for Prime Minister

BR0203145994 Brussels LE SOIR in French 2 Mar 94
p 7

[Article by C.B.: "Controversial Transition in Zaire"]

[Text] The High Council of the Transitional Republic-Parliament met this week in Kinshasa, holding a plenary session after one month's suspension of activities. But it appears that many irreconcilable differences remain, on the appointment of army chiefs, governors of the provinces and diplomatic representatives, and control of the Central Bank.

A particularly lively debate is promised on Article 76 of the proposed constitution which lays down the procedure for appointing the prime minister.

The UDPS [Union for Democracy and Social Progress] wants Mr. Tshisekedi, who was elected by the national conference, to be confirmed in his position without a vote, while President Mobutu's supporters would like to be able to choose other candidates. It is this which has produced the candidacy of Mr. Kengo Wa Dondo, leader of the Union of Democratic Independents and former prime minister, who is known for his previous firm government. Paradoxically, his candidacy divides Mr. Mobutu's supporters at least as much as it does the Tshisekedi camp, as they fear that a political expert will be even more skilled at thwarting any maneuvering, imposing his authority, and guaranteeing a transition outside the president's control.

Mr. Kengo Wa Dondo seems all the more dangerous to the Mobutu presidency as he apparently has no very long term political ambitions and would be prepared to stake his reputation on a proper management of the transitional period.

The West is continuing to carefully watch the Zairian crisis, but it seems that pressure on Mobutu to agree to power sharing has yet to produce results. Meanwhile, France has granted, "on humanitarian grounds," a temporary visa to the president's wife so that she can visit one of her children who is seriously ill in Paris.

Ethiopia

Zenawi Reaffirms Commitment to Constitutional Rule

EA0303162494 Addis Ababa Voice of Ethiopia Network
in Amharic 1728 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Speech by President Meles Zenawi on the occasion of the 98th anniversary of victory in the Battle of Adwa; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The main objective of the transitional period is to draft and approve the country's constitution with the full participation of the people and, based on this, to hand over power to a constitutionally elected government. The government is committed to this objective. Because of the government's efforts to ensure that the people take part in drafting the future constitution, more than 16 million people have debated the draft constitution. [passage omitted]

I want to confirm that the transitional government will take all the necessary steps to ensure that the transitional period is democratic and successful and that it will create a conducive atmosphere for parties to participate in the constitutional congress. Although it is clear that the government's and peace-loving people's desire and efforts are to make sure that the constitutional process is a success, there are people who are still opposed to it. These people, who are living abroad and within the country, are struggling to halt or change the direction of the transitional path. There is a basic issue which we want to confirm to these people once and for all. The programs and structures set up to end the transitional period victoriously will not be changed under any circumstances.

The transitional period will end in accordance with the time and direction determined. The struggle to change this is nothing but a daydream, so I call on these dreamers to change their ideas and to declare publicly that they want to pursue their objectives in a peaceful way, and participate in the May elections and other programs of the transitional period. The democratic path embarked on in our country does not seek to isolate others. The legal and democratic participation of all will rather strengthen the transitional process. [passage omitted]

It must be clear that although the government is ready to help dreamers if they publicly declare their readiness to pursue their objectives peacefully and to participate in the elections, it will not accept any kind of attempt to halt the transition programs or structures, whether directly or indirectly.

Concerning the economy, it is no secret for the Ethiopian people that our economy has problems because of mismanagement by the previous regime and civil war. However, because of the steps taken by the transitional government and the people's efforts, the economic situation has improved in the past two years.

It may be recalled that last year alone the economy grew by 7.6 percent. This progress was achieved because of the progress made in the agricultural and other economic sectors, especially the increase in production in the industrial sector. The various economic policies of the government also played a major role in development. This year, although the government had planned that the economy would grow by 5.6 percent, according to the prevailing situation the expected growth will not exceed 3.5 percent. The main reason for this is because of the prevailing drought which has seriously affected agricultural production. [passage omitted]

As a result of the government's efforts it has been possible to limit the displacement and death of our people. However, it is very difficult to contain the situation by the efforts of the government and the people alone. It requires the assistance of the donor (?agencies). In this regard, on behalf of the victims and the Ethiopian people in general, I would like to extend my appreciation to the donor countries and agencies for the assistance they have rendered so far, however, the extent of the assistance and the (?means) of delivery are not helping us to contain the situation. We call on the donor countries to extend their assistance, bearing in mind the dangerous consequences at stake.

The other issue which should be raised in connection with our economic activities is the ongoing restructuring process in the civil service. It may be recalled that after the formation of regional administrations, these regional administrations had problems regarding expertise. As a result of this, and the huge number of civil servants in the (?cities), it was necessary to carry out a restructuring in the central government's offices. [passage omitted]

The objective of the restructuring process is not to suspend employees, but to transfer employees from the central government's offices to regional administrations. However, some people are being dismissed because they refused to work in regional administrative offices. So conscientious employees should not fear that they will be affected by the restructuring process.

Dear Ethiopians, the remaining tasks for the fulfillment of the transitional process are no greater than those we have achieved so far. We have managed to overcome the difficult ones in a proper and positive way. The major remaining task is the adoption of the draft constitution which will enable us to form a people's government. So far, the process is going smoothly and I am sure that it will be concluded successfully. The transitional government is, more than ever before, on the side of the people concerning the above key issue, and concerning the improvement of the economy and combating the problem of drought and, in general, maintaining the prevailing peace and further strengthening the democratic system. Thank you.

Kenya

Ruling KANU Candidate Wins Lugari By-Election

EA0403102594 Nairobi KNA in English 0922 GMT
4 Mar 94

[Text] Kakamega, 4 Mar (KNA)—The former MP for Lugari Mr. Apili Wawire, vying for the seat on a KANU [Kenya African National Union] ticket, today trounced his two opponents, former cabinet minister, Burudi Nabwera, FORD [Forum for the Restoration of Democracy]-Kenya, and Mr Nathan Fendha [FORD-Asili] in the just ended Lugari by-elections.

In the hotly contested elections Mr Wawire got 8,831 votes closely followed by Mr Nabwera who got 7,778 votes while Mr Fendha got 550 votes. A total of 15,405 votes were cast of which 246 were rejected. The voter turnout was 37.04 percent. The seat fell vacant following the defection of the former area MP Mr Apili Wawire to KANU.

Further on Election Results

EA0403120594 Nairobi KBC Television Network in English 1000 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Excerpts] KANU's [Kenya African National Union] Apili Wawire was today declared the winner of the Lugari by-election after trouncing his closest rival, Burudi Nabwera. [passage omitted] The hotly contested race, seen as a battle between KANU and FORD [Forum for the Restoration of Democracy]-Kenya, saw repeat results of the 1992 general elections when Wawire, on a FORD-Asili ticket, beat Nabwera then seeking reelection on a KANU ticket. Today's counting was temporarily stopped for 50 minutes, from 0730, after protests from FORD-Kenya officials. The counting, however, resumed at 0820.

With the results from Lugari, KANU now controls 103 seats in Parliament, FORD-Kenya 30, FORD-Asili 28, Democratic Party of Kenya 22, and the smaller parties—Kenya Social Congress, Kenya National Congress and PICK [Party for Independent Candidates of Kenya]—each with one seat. Two seats remain vacant following the death of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga in Bondo, FORD-Kenya, and Josephat Karanja, the late FORD-Asili MP for Githunguri who will be buried today.

Disturbances at Polls Reported

EA0403103094 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English
4 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Emman Omari and Caleb Atemi]

[Excerpts] General service unit [GSU] and regular policemen fired into the air and sealed off the biggest polling station in Lugari [western Kenya] for 30 minutes

during by-election voting yesterday. There was no explanation for the siege of Lumakanda divisional headquarters but FORD [Forum for the Restoration of Democracy]-Kenya officials claimed it was "psychological warfare" intended to intimidate voters.

Even after the paramilitary unit had withdrawn, armed policemen patrolled the periphery of the station. Reports from around the constituency indicated little serious violence but there were persistent reports of irregularities including the expulsion of a cabinet minister from a polling station. [passage omitted]

There were near-riots at Chekalini polling station when voters hurled stones at KANU [Kenya African National Union] candidate Apili Wawire when he arrived in a convoy of nine vehicles packed with people singing party songs.

The by-election pitted the former Lugari member, Mr Wawire, who defected from FORD-Asili, against Mr Burudi Nabwera, a KANU defector to FORD-Kenya, and Mr Nathan Fedha (FORD-A).

Voting, at least in the early hours, appeared to be slow.

It was three P.M. when heavily armed security personnel in combat and anti-riot gear blocked the entrance to the township polling station and sealed off the Lumakanda headquarters. Six shots were fired into the air but no reasons were given for the action.

Opposition leaders held a 30-minute meeting with the provincial police officer and at 3:30 P.M., the GSU lorry and policemen who had blocked the entrance to the station were withdrawn. [passage omitted]

There was a high turnout at the three newly-created and controversial sub-stations of Savala, Mahanga and Lurnani. [passage omitted] By 1:30 P.M., only 800 people at the [Lugari] township station—the largest in Lugari with seven streams—had cast their votes out of the registered 7,000.

Moi: Embassies Showing Open Support for Subversives

EA0403102094 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1720 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today said he was concerned that certain embassies were showing open support for subversive elements operating in the country in the name of democracy. The president said it was saddening that some opposition groups had issued threats of terrorism in the run-up to the Lugari by-election, but no embassy had protested over it.

The president said the failure by the embassies to condemn the threats showed that they supported subversion and were putting democracy in the country at risk. President Moi was speaking at State Lodge, Eldoret, this

afternoon when he received a goodwill delegation of elders from Uasin Gishu District, who paid him a courtesy call.

He said true democracy was only possible in an atmosphere where wananchi [citizens] are free to elect their leaders without any intimidation. President Moi termed the demand by certain embassies to observe the Lugari by-election as an interference in the internal affairs of the country. Such demand said the president was tantamount to supervision and neocolonialism. [passage omitted]

Somalia

Former Italian Embassy Comes Under Fire

LD0403113094 Rome RAI Due Television Network in Italian 10:05 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] We have just heard that for about half an hour this morning about 20 Somalis directed fire at the former Italian Embassy in Mogadishu, in which a unit of the Italian contingent is based.

Guards returned fire, as did the crews on two caterpillar vehicles that were returning to the base when they also came under attack.

No Italians have been hurt. The Somalis fled shortly afterward and it is not known if any of them were hurt. The motives behind the attack are not yet known.

Attack on Embassy Resumes

LD0403134594 Rome RAI Due Television Network in Italian 1200 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Before we go, let us return live to Mogadishu, where our correspondent Carmen Lasorella is inside the embassy that was attacked by Somali rebels a few hours ago. What is the current situation?

[Lasorella, on telephone] The situation is that the calm did not last very long. About 15 minutes ago Somali snipers started firing at the embassy again. The shots are coming from several different positions. It is not heavy gunfire but the shots are still coming. The servicemen inside the embassy are returning fire with machine-guns. Helicopters have also been requested. Two helicopters are now here and flying over the embassy to provide air cover.

Before this latest attack started, a small group of caterpillar vehicles was heading for the port with Italian Commander General Carmine Fiore, who was to return

to headquarters at Balad. The operation has now been suspended. The general is here with me, inside the embassy.

All possible security measures have been put into operation, because even though, as I have said, the gunfire is not heavy, the shots are still coming. Shots are coming from several different positions around the embassy—from the south and from the side of the embassy. Italian soldiers are returning fire from the guard towers...[passage omitted]

Attack Ends; 1 Killed

LD0403142894 Rome RAI Due Television Network in Italian 1200 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Excerpts] The Italian Embassy in Mogadishu has been attacked. [passage omitted] Our correspondent Carmen Lasorella reports from the embassy in Mogadishu.

[Lasorella] I am calling you from the embassy, where everything is back to normal. There are no signs of tension—not even on the road.

Outside the embassy, the usual groups of Somalis are crouching on the ground. Inside, servicemen are going about their normal duties, although all defense positions have been reinforced.

Only three hours ago the air was ablaze with heavy gunfire, which lasted about half an hour. The embassy was attacked from several different positions, with shots fired at the southeast side of the building, at the main entrance on the road, and at an internal facade off the road.

According to estimates, at least 30 Somalis armed with automatic rifles and Kalashnikovs were involved in the attack. Italian servicemen returned fire from inside the embassy compound, as did two VCC [expansion unknown] caterpillar vehicles that were coming from the port. The vehicles had two Red Cross women and an Italian journalist from the INTERARMA periodical on board. The VCC came under a hail of snipers' bullets and returned fire with machine guns and automatic rifles. Four helicopters also became involved and circled the embassy for some time, but did not fire.

None of the Italians were hurt, but one of the Somalis was killed and another seriously wounded.

But why did this attack take place this morning? Servicemen say it is to apply pressure. On the eve of the Italian withdrawal from the country, the Somalis want to draw attention to their problems, obtain more aid and compensation for damage allegedly suffered.

Buthelezi: International Mediation 'New Bottom Line'

MB0303150694 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1446 GMT 3 Mar 94

[By Dirk van Zyl]

[Text] Cape Town Mar 3 SAPA—Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi made it clear on Thursday [3 March] that the proposed international mediation to resolve South Africa's constitutional deadlock was a new bottom-line. And he said that once the frame of reference of such mediation had been set, he would personally be willing to start campaigning for an election. The IFP Central Committee would decide on Friday whether the party should provisionally register before the Friday midnight deadline for the April election.

Addressing journalists and businessmen in Cape Town, Mr Buthelezi said he had "come to the end" of the current constitutional road. "Only this international mediation might open a new chapter," he said in answer to a question at a press conference after he had addressed the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Buthelezi revealed that the Freedom Alliance had, at a meeting in Cape Town earlier on Thursday, accepted international mediation in principle to resolve South Africa's constitutional deadlock. He told the business luncheon—at which he had arrived about an hour late because of the Alliance meeting—that he had "just been told" that the African National Congress [ANC] working committee had also decided in principle there should be international mediation.

Mr Buthelezi and ANC President Nelson Mandela agreed in a joint statement after meeting in Durban on Tuesday that the possibility of international mediation should be explored to resolve outstanding constitutional deadlocks. Mr Buthelezi told the businessmen on Thursday that the interim constitution, as it stood, would give rise to the politics of violent recrimination when it was found that "it polarises South Africa and destroys the prospects of producing the national unity in which there will emerge the national will to establish a democracy and make it work".

ANC Agrees To Pursue International Mediation

MB0303153694 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1515 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Johannesburg March 3 SAPA—The African National Congress [ANC] on Thursday [3 March] gave notice it had apparently accepted international mediation, saying a joint ANC/Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] task force should be established to address "the specifics" of this proposal. The ANC's national working committee said in a statement in Johannesburg it had received a full report of the March 1 meeting between ANC President Nelson Mandela and IFP President

Mangosuthu Buthelezi and that it "warmly welcomed the positive outcome of the meeting".

Committee members had discussed the idea of international mediation, proposed by Mr Buthelezi, as a way of resolving outstanding differences between the two parties, and had agreed to explore this route. "To pursue the matter further with the IFP, the ANC proposes the establishment of a joint task team to address the specifics and agree upon mutually acceptable terms of reference."

The committee had also decided to set in motion discussions with the IFP on other outstanding issues, including future meetings between their respective leaders. [passage omitted]

Mandela To Meet With King

MB0303165994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1642 GMT 3 Mar 94

[By Ben MacLennan]

[Text] Umtata March 3 SAPA—African National Congress [ANC] leader Nelson Mandela is to meet Zulu King Zwelithini to discuss the issue of a separate Zulu kingdom. Speaking on Thursday [3 March] after a meeting with Organisation of African Unity Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim in Umtata in Transkei, Mr Mandela said a Zulu homeland was a point raised during his meeting with Inkatha Freedom Party President Mangosuthu Buthelezi earlier this week. "I indicated to Mr Buthelezi this was a matter we were prepared to discuss directly with the king and we requested Mr Buthelezi to arrange a meeting. We are awaiting a response," Mr Mandela said.

The ANC had decided in principle to accept international mediation, but it had not yet discussed the structure through which this would take place. "But the principle has been formally accepted and we have conveyed this fact to Mr Buthelezi," he said.

Mr Mandela said he had briefed Mr Salim on the latest political developments during their hour-long meeting in the offices of the Transkei Military Council in Umtata. Mr Salim said he had been encouraged by the discussions he had had with Mr Mandela, Mr Buthelezi, State President F W de Klerk, the Pan Africanist Congress leadership and the Afrikaner Volksfront [Afrikaner National Front]. "What has encouraged me more is the meeting the president of the ANC had with Mr Buthelezi. From all indications, it was very constructive. I believe and I'm hopeful that arising from the serious discussions and understandings arrived at there, the prospects for the country are certainly brightened," Mr Salim said.

The OAU looked forward to a peaceful election. A successful outcome was vital not only to the people of South Africa, but to the continent as a whole. The attention of the international community was focused on this country, he said. "We want to see an emergent,

stable South Africa which can play a central role in Africa and can be an important factor of stability for our continent," Mr Salim said.

Freedom Alliance Backs IFP Mediation Initiative
MB0303192994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1827 GMT 3 Mar 94

[By Pierre Claassen]

[Excerpts] Cape Town March 3 SAPA—International mediation and the government's attitude to it has become the key to a quick and inclusive constitutional settlement. This became clear as the Freedom Alliance closed ranks on Thursday [3 March] and backed the mediation initiative proposed by IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi with the African National Congress' [ANC] national working committee, also giving it the green light.

The proposal, made at the Buthelezi/Mandela summit on Tuesday, now needs only the government's backing to ensure agreement by the majority in the multiparty negotiating process. [passage omitted]

Mr F W de Klerk and his government will now have to give its response to the mediation proposal, an option not popular with the NP [National Party] government in the past. An all-inclusive settlement has, however, become a clear priority for the two major parties and there seems little chance, observers say, that Mr de Klerk will resist ANC President Nelson Mandela in accepting it. The Angola/Namibian settlement is cited as a clear precedent of successful international mediation involving South Africa.

The Alliance backing came after a three-hour meeting between leaders at a Constantia Hotel in the Cape on Friday morning. Speaking on their behalf, Alliance Chairman and Bophuthatswana Foreign Minister Rowan Cronje said they were backing the initiative and were united on the issue. It was up to the ANC to indicate its acceptance of the offer.

Mr Buthelezi said the offer was made in return for a recommendation to his Central Committee to register "provisionally" to give negotiators a chance to find a settlement. He rejected Mr de Klerk's view, expressed in Parliament on Wednesday, that negotiations could continue to reach agreements which could be implemented after the elections. "We want a settlement before elections," he said.

The Alliance accused the government of having unilaterally suspended negotiations, but the new initiative has given the process new momentum which the government will find difficult to resist.

Mr de Klerk acknowledged the IFP offer in Parliament on Wednesday with careful wording which clearly left the door open.

Asked whether there was enough time, Mr Cronje said at the Thursday summit the principle first had to be accepted before details of the who, where and when could be negotiated. He made it clear the Alliance was taking its cue from the IFP Central Committee's decision on Friday which in turn was subject to ANC acceptance.

Mr Buthelezi's response was that if the IFP Central Committee accepted the initiative it was implicit that it considered there was enough time to negotiate and participate in the elections, although the Alliance and the IFP's position remained that the election date itself had to be postponed. Although there is virtually no chance of the latter, senior negotiators said on Thursday night a concession by the government and the ANC on international mediation was now a logical next step. Postponements of technical deadlines could then follow.

The Alliance was confident enough to appoint a committee to deal with the details of such a process once the IFP's Central Committee decided in favour of it.

Releases Names of Suggested Mediators

MB0303185394 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1800 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Excerpts] There is still a good chance that members of the Freedom Alliance will register for the elections. They have accepted international mediation in principle to resolve South Africa's deadlock. This followed an alliance meeting in Cape Town today. Conrad Burke reports:

[Burke] [passage omitted] The names of possible mediators that have been suggested so far include the Italian-based Venus Commission, the German Constitutional Court, the Swiss-based International Institute for Federalism, American former Chief Justice Warren Burger, and the Carter Center, which has been involved in Ethiopia. But getting this together could take time.

On the other hand, if the ANC [African National Congress] and the Government signal a positive response, the Freedom Alliance's parties could go ahead and register before midnight tomorrow and tighten up on the nuts and bolts of mediation over several days. There is a slim possibility that the registration deadline could be amended, but even this won't afford them much time. Candidates' lists need to be submitted in six days' time. [passage omitted]

De Klerk: Outside Mediation Cannot Delay Election

MB0403073994 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The leader of the National Party, Mr. F.W. de Klerk, says the elections cannot be postponed to allow time for international mediation to break the constitutional deadlock. Addressing a meeting in Durban last night, Mr. de Klerk said the government had not been consulted on this issue, and that he needed a concrete

proposal to be tabled before it could be considered. However, he had serious reservations as to whether international mediation could address the issues at stake. Mr. de Klerk said he was open to negotiations to reach agreement for implementation after the elections.

Mr. de Klerk said he was disappointed with the Freedom Alliance's actions regarding the amendments proposed by the government to break the constitutional deadlock. He described the alliances' reaction as inadequate, as the government's proposals address the core of the problems. Mr. de Klerk said he rejected the alliance's efforts to play down the latest amendments.

IFP's Buthelezi on Deadlines, Election Date

MB0303203894 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1830 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Interview with Dr. Mangosuthu Buthelezi, kwaZulu chief minister and Inkatha Freedom Party leader, in the Cape Town parliamentary studio by Max du Preez on the "Agenda" program—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Du Preez] Earlier I referred to the state president's statements earlier tonight that there is not enough time for foreign mediation. What is your reaction to that?

[Buthelezi] Well I don't know. Mr. de Klerk has always been saying there is no time for this, there is no time for that, there's this deadline and that deadline, and really it's something that depresses me immensely, Mr. du Preez, because I think that the main thing is to find a solution. What is the use of meeting deadlines, as happened in Angola, and still have mayhem like that in the country. I think that it's important for us to find solutions, rather than to gallop regardless of whether we find a solution or not.

[Du Preez] Now I suspect then what Mr. Moosa said about the election date being cast in stone, that you will also not be very happy with that statement?

[Buthelezi] Well I'm not happy with it because it's based—in fact from the very beginning, you know Mr. du Preez, without rehashing, you know, arguments that have taken place at the multiparty talks, you know, in Kempton Park—from the very beginning, the very idea of fixing a date before there was a constitution was wrong. But we provisionally accepted the date on the proviso that certain things should come first. But those things which should have come first did not even come first, and that is why our teams or delegations had to walk out of Kempton Park.

[Du Preez] I put it to the other two gentlemen earlier—I think viewers and voters will imagine now that this is the next deadlock: that the Freedom Alliance parties will come in and say we have not had enough time—the ANC [African National Congress] and government saying it's virtually cast in stone. Do you have sympathy with the position that there could be violence—it would be a

massive disappointment to a large majority of the people—if we had to move the date from the 27th of April?

[Buthelezi] Well I think that is propaganda that is being built by both the government, Mr. de Klerk, and also by the leaders of the ANC that, you know, people are itching to have the 27th, they are itching for that regardless of the result, regardless of whether there is an all inclusive solution. I mean that is their attitude all along, and it's propaganda, of course, which has become a hype, sort of deliberately created, you know, in their public relations work. [passage omitted]

IFP Committee Looking at Provisional Registration

MB0403090994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0830 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Ulundi March 4 SAPA—Inkatha Central Committee members gathered in the kwaZulu capital of Ulundi on Friday [4 March] morning to decide on the IFP's [Inkatha Freedom Party] provisional registration for the April elections. Sources said the meeting was expected to endorse IFP President Mangosuthu Buthelezi's proposal for provisional registration, pending international mediation on the constitutional deadlock.

Friday's meeting also follows the ANC's acceptance of mediation, opening the way for Inkatha's registration before the Friday midnight deadline.

Central Committee members were tight-lipped on their arrival for the 10AM Ulundi meeting. IFP sources said on Thursday however that details of mediation and the time period remaining for electioneering would also come under the spotlight at the meeting.

Inkatha officials said it could last several hours.

Opinion Poll Shows Natal-KwaZulu Wants King as Head

MB0403074094 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] An opinion poll conducted for the SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] has found that the majority of blacks in Natal-KwaZulu want King Goodwill Zwelithini to be the head of the province. The poll released today found that even supporters of the king believed he was wrong to be so politically involved with the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party].

Asked to rate leaders on a scale of 1-10, the king came first with an average of 6.64. The second most popular leader is Mr. Nelson Mandela with 5.8, followed closely by Chief Buthelezi with 5.37, and State President F.W. de Klerk with 5.04. The ANC's [African National Congress] candidate for premier in Natal, Mr. Jacob Zuma, received a negative rating from nearly half the sample.

Deadline To Submit Candidate Lists Extended

MBU403055994 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 1600 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The deadline for political parties to submit their lists of candidates has been extended by five days. The deadline for the registration of political parties to take part in the elections is midnight tomorrow. Candidates' lists should be in by 1600 on 9 March. The Independent Electoral Commission [IEC] said in Kempton Park any further changes to these dates would be very difficult.

[Begin IEC spokesman Norman du Plessis recording, in English] Now that would be very difficult in terms of the logistics. Obviously that is a matter for Parliament to decide if there is to be any further postponements. But in terms of logistics, the printing of ballot papers and various such matters, it would be extremely difficult to effect further changes. [end recording]

Survey Shows High Percentage Intend To Vote

MB0303183794 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1807 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Report by A Thomson]

[Text] Johannesburg March 3 SAPA—Motivation to vote in the April elections is high, according to the results of a survey for Matla Trust published on Thursday [3 March]. The research initiatives survey of 8,004 respondents shows 83 per cent of black voters and 85 per cent of white voters intend casting ballots. However, only 50 per cent of coloureds and 55 per cent of Indians intend voting. The survey shows six per cent of blacks, eight per cent of whites, 19 per cent of coloureds and 23 per cent of Indians intend abstaining.

Motivation to vote among blacks is highest in the Eastern and Western Cape (93 and 95 per cent) and lowest in Natal and the Eastern Transvaal (74 per cent). Among coloureds, it is lowest in the Western Cape (47 per cent) and in the North-West Region (46 per cent). Indian voters in the PWV [Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging] region are more motivated than those in Natal (62 and 54 per cent).

Women are less motivated than men in all regions except the Western Cape. The gender gap is between seven and 12 per cent, except in the Eastern Transvaal where 85 per cent of men and 62 per cent of women will vote, and Natal where 80 per cent of men and 68 per cent of women will go to the polls. The gender gap is highest among Indians, at 29 per cent.

Principal reasons for not voting are confusion about political events, personal reasons (such as "too old", "against religion") and ignorance about elections and voting. Among blacks, lack of identity documents is the fifth most important reason for not voting. The survey also shows the secrecy of the ballot is either doubted or mistrusted by about 25 per cent of voters. Belief in ballot secrecy is highest among blacks, at 81 per cent. The

figure for whites is 77 per cent, for coloureds 70 per cent and for Indians 74 per cent.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Meets With Mandela

LD0303161494 Lisbon RTP Internacional Television in Portuguese 1200 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Italicized passages recorded]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Durao Barroso and Nelson Mandela have met in South Africa. Both came out in favor of peace and of a peaceful channeling of the South African electoral process.

[Correspondent Antonio Mateus] An election boycott poses a potential conflict situation in South Africa. After meeting the South African president, the ANC [African National Congress] president, and the PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] president, Barroso still has reservations regarding the future of this country. The consensus between the government and the ANC raises hopes of a peaceful transition but this is not enough. Six weeks away from the elections the objective is to extend participation in the process. Barroso's message was echoed by some of those involved, anxious to prevent the worst. Barroso found today in Mandela an attentive listener to the Portuguese experience of transition in Africa.

[Mandela, in English with superimposed Portuguese translation] *They have had a lot of experience regarding the problems that South Africa will have to face, because the former colonies, Angola and Mozambique, had difficult experiences that we do not want to see repeated in this country. I have found the exchange of opinion with him [Barroso] very useful in that regard.*

[Mateus, interviewing Barroso on the street] *After the brief contacts, are you more optimistic regarding the future of this country, or is it too early to say?*

[Barroso] I still have many reservations because I think that until we can ensure that everyone will participate there will be the potential for destabilization. Essentially, I think there is a great consensus in South Africa—for which it would be enough that the ANC and the National Party saw eye to eye—but it is important for that agreement to be as widespread as possible in order to reduce to a minimum the potential for destabilization of some forces. [passage omitted]

Comments on Possible Repatriation

LD0403145394 Lisbon RDP Antena 1 Radio Network in Portuguese 1300 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Portuguese Foreign Minister Durao Barroso has told RDP that if things take a turn for the worse in South Africa steps will be taken to make it possible for Portuguese nationals to leave the country. He was speaking in Johannesburg to our correspondent Carlos Pacheco.

[Pacheco] The Portuguese Government has plans for the repatriation of Portuguese nationals should things worsen in South Africa. Minister Durao Barroso gave no details, but confirmed that planning is in progress to enable us to respond to a worst-case scenario. However Durao Barroso is confident of a positive evolution in South Africa and does not believe that repatriation will be necessary. The foreign minister also denied rumors that Portuguese nationals are returning home in massive numbers, stating that the figures supplied by the Portuguese Embassy show nothing out of the ordinary.

[Begin Barroso recording] If in the past, in extreme conditions, we were able to receive our compatriots [post-1974 return from the African colonies], now we would certainly be able to receive them much better. But this is not our goal, nor is it, I believe, the goal of most of the Portuguese who have settled here. [end recording]

AVF's Viljoen Informs ANC of Plot To Kill Ramaphosa

*MB0403122894 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English
4 Mar 94 p 1*

[Report by political correspondent Themba Molefe]

[Text] The African National Congress [ANC] has increased security around its leadership after being informed of a rightwing plot to assassinate Mr Cyril Ramaphosa.

The ANC has confirmed that Afrikaner Volksfront [National Front—AVF] co-leader General Constand Viljoen "volunteered" information linking the plot with covert military operations. The ANC has, however, not divulged the full details of Viljoen's information and referred inquiries to him.

SOWETAN has learned that Viljoen approached the ANC with the information because he wanted to draw suspicion away from his people who, he said, were not part of the conspiracy. Viljoen was this week travelling around the country on AVF and Freedom Alliance business and could not be contacted for comment. ANC chief media officer Mr Carl Niehaus said the organisation had stepped up security, especially around Secretary-General Ramaphosa, in the light of the threat. ANC leaders have been targets of rightwing forces for some time, and several leaders have been killed in suspected plots. The most prominent was Mr Chris Hani, while SACP [South African Communist Party] chairman Mr Joe Slovo has also been a target.

Police To Investigate

*MB0403071594 Johannesburg SACP in English 0705
GMT 4 Mar 94*

[Text] Johannesburg March 4 SACP—Police would seek an immediate interview with Afrikaner Volksfront [National Front—AVF] co-leader General Constand Viljoen in connection with a reported plot to assassinate

African National Congress [ANC] Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa, police said on Friday [4 March].

Law and Order Ministry Spokesman Craig Kotze was reacting to a report in Friday's SOWETAN newspaper which said Mr Ramaphosa's security had been stepped up after Gen Viljoen had "volunteered" information to the ANC linking the alleged plot with covert military operations.

The SOWETAN said it had learned Gen Viljoen had approached the ANC with the information "because he wanted to draw suspicion away from his people who, he said, were not part of the conspiracy".

Mr Kotze told SACP police would take immediate steps "to get to the bottom of this matter and in this regard will seek an immediate interview with Gen Constand Viljoen. This matter is seen in an extremely serious light as South Africa cannot afford a repetition of the Chris Hani affair."

Gen Viljoen could not immediately be traced for comment.

Viljoen: Hit Squads Not AVF Policy

*MB0403150694 Johannesburg SACP in English 1331
GMT 4 Mar 94*

[Report by N. Patterson]

[Text] Johannesburg, March 4 SACP—It was not the Afrikaner Volksfront's [AVF, Afrikaner National Front] policy to become involved in hit squad activities, AVF leader Gen Constand Viljoen said on Friday [4 March]. He was speaking against the background of a SOWETAN newspaper report of an alleged rightwing plot to murder African National Congress Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa. Gen Viljoen said the story was probably aimed at discrediting the rightwing.

The unfortunate assassination of SA Communist Party General Secretary Chris Hani was a clear example of an incident from which the country, and especially the AVF, had not benefited at all. "On the contrary, it caused more damage.

"I as a person am not involved in the alleged activities and play no role in such planning.

"If I should become aware of such planning I would report it to the police and do everything possible to prevent such a dangerous deed."

Mr Ramaphosa said on Radio 702 he had been left numb by the reports. "It causes a great deal of concern that there could be a bunch of people out there who want to eliminate one."

The WEEKLY MAIL on Friday ran a story about an alleged rightwing war plan to hijack the SA Defence Force's Rapid Deployment Force and strategic installations and to "neutralise" hostile generals at the outbreak of hypothetical hostilities.

CP Reportedly Experiencing Dissent Over Election*MB0303141994 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
3 Mar 94 pp 1, 3**[Report by Chris Whitfield, political correspondent]*

[Text] Cape Town—The Conservative Party [CP] is so racked by internal dissent that it could see a breakaway right-wing group registering for the election. A group of CP MPs made it clear during a caucus meeting yesterday that they believed the party should go to the polls.

One source said they had effectively "thrown down the gauntlet". They argued that if the right wing could get support for a volkstaat [Afrikaner homeland] council—provided for in the Interim Constitution this week—it could force a new government to seriously consider allowing for the creation of such a homeland.

Developments in Durban during the meeting between ANC [African National Congress] president Nelson Mandela and kwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi were increasing the pressure on the party leadership. Some members of the caucus said bluntly that if the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] and Bophuthatswana did provisionally register for the election, the CP would be making a fatal error not to do the same.

Yesterday afternoon a CP MP said the party had taken no decision on whether to follow Buthelezi's lead. The party leadership had been trying to establish contact with Buthelezi for clarity on his plans. There were attempts to call a meeting of the Freedom Alliance as soon as possible, and CP leader Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg had held extensive discussions with Afrikaner Volksfront [National Front] (AVF) leader General Constant Viljoen since he arrived in Cape Town late on Tuesday.

A prominent CP member said some rightwingers had considered forming a breakaway organisation to contest the election. Those in favour of this move were waiting to see whether the CP as a whole, or the AVF, would decide to take part, he said. He believed a major consideration was finding a "face"—a well-known leader who could draw support—to lead a breakaway party.

It is understood that younger MPs like brothers Pieter and Corne Mulder were among the prime movers in the participation lobby. Respected MP for Parys Dr Piet Gous is also thought to be in favour of contesting the election. A senior CP source said a major factor behind the cracks in the party was the fact that some younger MPs saw their careers going down the drain.

There also appears to be disillusionment with Hartzenberg's leadership. Another party member said the divisions were not about what the party should be striving for, but how to achieve it.

CP Says No Division in Ranks*MB0303131594 Johannesburg Radio South Africa
Network in English 1100 GMT 3 Mar 94*

[Text] The Conservative Party [CP] says there is absolute solidarity in its ranks, and it has accused what it called the left-wing media of trying to cause divisions in the right wing. The party's chief secretary, Dr. Lem Theron, said the reason for the campaign was the success achieved by the CP during the past 12 years in establishing a basis for the political aspirations of Afrikaners and their desire for freedom and independence.

The Mulder brothers, members of the Afrikaner Volksfront's [Afrikaner National Front] negotiating team, say there are no differences within the Conservative Party about the ideal of an Afrikaner volkstaat [homeland] and the need to attain such a state as soon as possible. Dr. Pieter Mulder said in a statement by himself and his brother, Corne Mulder, that they were still convinced that a volkstaat should be seen as part of the solution to South Africa's problems.

MP Denies Backing Participation*MB0303162594 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1539
GMT 3 Mar 94**[Report by E van Wyk]*

[Text] Pretoria March 3 SAPA—Conservative Party [CP] MP Piet Gous on Thursday [3 March] rejected the "government-inspired" attempt to sow division among rightwingers and suggestions that he was committed to participation in the elections. "I have never experienced any yearning to betray my people in the Orange Free State or my party," Dr Gous, who represents the Parys constituency, said in a statement.

Dr Gous said African National Congress [ANC] leader Nelson Mandela and ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa had repeatedly stated that plans were being made for South Africa to become a unitary state and that there would be no Afrikaner volkstaat [homeland]. "Measured against these utterances, it is clear that if a volkstaat does not come into being before the April 27 elections, the legal implication that it could possibly come into being after that date, is meaningless." Any reasonable person could see that the so-called constitutional concessions would not realise the ideal of the Afrikaner people, he said. "Therefore, it is impossible to convince us to participate in such an election."

Dr Gous called for something concrete, not vague promises, to create the basis for positive negotiations.

Dr Gous was one of eight CP MPs named by the SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] as having been absent during parliamentary voting on amendments to the interim constitution and the electoral act. The SABC claimed this could indicate a possible split in the party over participation in the elections.

Hartzenberg: Party Stands by Decision

MB0403092794 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 0500 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Conservative Party leader Dr. Ferdi Hartzenberg says his party stands by its decision not to participate in the election. Speaking in Roodepoort last night, Dr. Hartzenberg said the latest concessions by the ANC [African National Congress] and the government still were not enough.

[Begin Hartzenberg recording, in Afrikaans] We say up till tonight nothing has happened, nothing at all, to make it possible or necessary for us to change our decision not to take part in their election. Nothing has happened, nothing at all. Mr. Chairman, by participating in the election, we will only be helping to give it legitimacy. We will be helping to give it credibility. What's more, we will become party to subjecting our people to a communist government. And as I said, Mr. Chairman, that constitution and that South Africa will not be tenable. Let us not be party to keeping it artificially alive. We must do everything possible to bring about its collapse as soon as possible. [end recording]

TEC Orders Measures To Guarantee Natal Elections

MB0103154494 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1514 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] Cape Town March 1 SAPA—The Transitional Executive Council's [TEC] Management Committee was directed to take effective political and security steps on Tuesday [1 March] to ensure that the election went ahead unhindered in Natal. A resolution adopted unanimously at a Council meeting in Cape Town urged it to ensure that the people of Natal were freely able to exercise their right to vote. Supporting the motion, ANC [African National Congress] Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa said Natal posed the greatest challenge to the TEC's authority. He said people were being trained and armed by white conservative farmers in Northern Natal with the apparent aim of "serving the stated goal of certain parties" that no election would be held in the territory. "The TEC cannot pussy-foot around this issue. We have to act firmly and demonstrate that the TEC's powers are enforceable."

Mr Ramaphosa said the TEC had to reaffirm its commitment to free and fair elections throughout the country on April 27 and no single province should be exempted. With the co-operation of the South African Government, a climate conducive to free and fair elections could be created in Natal.

Chairman Zam Titus said important steps had already been taken to ensure that elections went ahead unhindered throughout the country. "We are now looking at reinforcing what is there already."

Reviews Bophuthatswana Polling Plans

MB0203140394 Johannesburg SABC CCV TV Network in Xhosa 1700 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Excerpts] The Transitional Executive Council [TEC] today expressed concern over the training of between 500 and 1,000 people at Umfolozi. The TEC said the government should deploy the defense force in this area to ensure a free and fair election. [passage omitted]

There was also heated debate following a resolution that the TEC [Transitional Executive Council] said must be relayed to the president and be entered in the Constitution of the country to ensure that people residing in Bophuthatswana and other areas are able to vote freely. It was proposed that security forces be deployed in these areas and ballot boxes be placed at polling places on the Bophuthatswana border so that voters do not have to travel long distances to cast their vote, as the people of Bophuthatswana resumed their South African citizenship legally on 1 January 1994, including public servants, the police and the defense force.

[Begin Cyril Ramaphosa recording, in English] To allow all our people in Bophuthatswana, and we have up to 2 million of them, to go and vote knowing that they exercise their vote freely and fairly, and that they will be protected by South African security forces, if the Bophuthatswana Defense Force ever seeks to do anything. But this resolution goes further, Mr. Chairman. It calls on the civil servants in Bophuthatswana, the soldiers, policemen, nurses, judges and magistrates and everyone else to know that they are not going to be left in the lurch when the rationalization process takes place. So it calls on them to have full confidence in what we are doing. Already there is unrest in Bophuthatswana. Civil servants are up in arms and they are up in arms because they have deep uncertainties of what the future holds for them. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Major Gaps Seen in Police Election Strategy

MB0303144394 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 3 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Kathryn Strachan]

[Text] The SAP [South African Police] strategy for policing the election was an unprofessional plan with major gaps, EC and Independent Electoral Commission security adviser Mike Brogden said yesterday.

Speaking at Wits [Witwatersrand] University's Centre for the Study of Violence, Brogden said that once the administrative staff had been subtracted from the SAP's manpower of 140,000, it left fewer than 70,000 effective police officers. This amounted to a totally inadequate number of two to three officers to each polling station on the three voting days.

The SAP planned to call all police officers from their usual duties, leaving these tasks to inadequately trained reserve policemen during this volatile period. Brogden

questioned the quality of policing and policemen's knowledge of electoral procedure. Another criticism was the lack of contingency plans if things failed to go smoothly.

The plan was also very centralised, which was an obstacle given the time taken to relay a message from Pretoria to peripheral areas. There were no plans to coordinate with emergency services. Nadia Levine, a researcher from the centre's policing project, highlighted the plan's vagueness and the lack of detail about its implementation. She said it failed to focus on the various problems the different regions would experience.

SAP spokesman Brig Francois Cronje countered criticism of the plan being too centralised, saying the SAP's 10 regions had a high degree of independence. For this reason the plan was intended to be only a guideline, and the regions would be able to develop their own plans according to circumstances on the ground. He said reservists would be used only in trouble-free areas. Contingency plans were in place, but could not be disclosed.

SAPA reports that President F.W. de Klerk told Parliament yesterday that government had a contingency plan to counteract violence or any threat to the election but it would not be made public. "I will ensure that the election is free and fair." The law would be brought into effect and the security forces applied against any effort to deny voters their rights. The TEC [Transitional Executive Council] would also be brought into play.

SADF [South African Defense Force] spokesman Maj Merle Meyer said troops would be deployed to assist. Some citizen force members were also being called up to replace soldiers seconded to the National Peacekeeping Force.

APLA To Train at Transkei Defense Force Facilities

MB0403065594 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0649 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Umtata March 4 SAPA—The Transkei Defence Force [TDF] is to make its training facilities immediately available to the Azanian People's Liberation Army [APLA], both parties said in a joint statement on Friday [4 March].

The decision follows a meeting on Thursday night between TDF and APLA leaders, including TDF head Maj-Gen T. T. Matanzima and APLA chief Maj-Gen Daniel Romero Mofokeng. "Among the decisions taken in the meeting was the response of APLA's high command on the offer made by the chairman of the military council, Maj-Gen Bantu Holomisa, for training facilities. Both delegations agreed that these facilities will be made use of by APLA with immediate effect," the joint statement said.

No further details of the training or numbers involved were immediately available.

AVF Leader Doubts SADF Support for Government

MB0203094594 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0037 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Report by E. van Wyk]

[Text] Pretoria, March 1, SAPA—Afrikaner Volksfront [National Front—AVF] leader Gen. Constand Viljoen on Tuesday [1 March] said he seriously doubted whether many right-aligned soldiers would be willing to collaborate with the government in its efforts to suppress "their own people. Gen Viljoen was reacting in a statement to State President F.W. de Klerk's "continued threats" to clamp down on Afrikaners with the help of the security forces.

Mr. de Klerk warned in Parliament on Monday that the government would use every means at its disposal, including security forces to prevent any party from hindering any person in his democratic right to vote, or from hampering the elections. The Freedom Alliance has indicated it will boycott the elections.

Gen. Viljoen said problems should not be solved through force but through negotiations and, if necessary, the elections could be postponed. "I would like to remind the state president that the South African Defence Force [SADF] of 1994 is not the SADF of 1984. Not in capacity, training or experience. Yet a very competent part of the defence force, the most competent part, consists of many of our supporters."

The government and the African National Congress [ANC] had failed to grant the Freedom Alliance its right to self-determination, he said. "Through their arrogance and complete disregard for the just demands of the Alliance, they have created anger and frustration which is bound to burst out in the open. It is time they accept the responsibility for this anger. The correct way to solve these problems is not through force but through negotiations and, if necessary, to shift the election date. It will be justifiable in the light of the requirement for peace in this country."

Although the AVF's demands had not been accommodated by the government and the ANC "we are now threatened with force if we do not comply with the dictated political dispensation which amounts to terms of surrender."

Although the AVF's demands had not been accommodated by the government and the ANC, "we are now threatened with force if we do not comply with the dictated political dispensation which amounts to terms of surrender." The AVF's action thus far had been directed against the interim constitution that could result in a communist state, Gen. Viljoen said. "A soldier is loyal to the values and norms of his nation, of which

the constitution is intended to be the product. Our people, being part of the defence force of this country ... realise that it (the interim constitution) does not represent their values. I sincerely doubt whether many of our soldiers, under these circumstances, will be willing to collaborate with the government in its intended efforts to suppress their own people."

Gen. Viljoen wanted to know why the government was suddenly so keen to act against Afrikaners while, he said, the ANC continued with its "political cleansing campaign" countrywide. "Why does the government threaten to bomb us into submission by using our own security forces, while Azanian Peoples Liberation Army terrorists are granted indemnity for terror acts such as the St. James church massacre?"

Most Striking Peacekeepers Reportedly Back at Work

MB0303163794 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1556 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Pretoria March 3 SAPA—The Transitional Executive Council [TEC] and members of its Sub-Council on Defence meet on Friday [4 March] in a bid to solve the pay grievances which sparked a strike by 3,100 members of the National Peacekeeping Force [NPKF]. NPKF spokesman Capt Johan Loots said on Thursday members of the TEC Management Council would visit the De Brug training camp, near Bloemfontein, on Monday to present the force's commander Maj-Gen Gabriel Ramushwana with a solution to the problem.

Capt Loots said the majority—98 per cent—of the trainees who went on strike on Monday had returned to work, following a visit to the camp by TEC representatives.

Justice Minister on Effects of NPKF Developments

MB0403072294 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0639 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Pretoria March 4 SAPA—Developments at the National Peacekeeping Force [NPKF] at De Brug are damaging the image of all participants in the force, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said on Friday [4 March]. He said in a statement the whole of South Africa was interested in the NPKF's orderly functioning.

Government To Go Ahead With Housing Project

MB0303160094 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The government is determined to go ahead with its announced housing project worth 90 billion rands despite the ANC's [African National Congress] efforts to keep business from getting involved in the project. The

ANC has threatened that the new government will probably not be able to honor the contracts. This evening National Housing Minister Louis Shill spoke to Ed Herbst about it:

[Shill, in English] I think that's a very intimidating attitude. I cannot believe that any organization that believes they have a part to play in the future South Africa—and that part is going to be played from May month onward—would want to prevent the building of houses. Many of the grounds which we are doing under this present scheme—and which was evolved together with the forum in which the ANC plays a very major role—are only going to be developed into houses from May, June and July month onward. They would be cutting off their noses to spite their face. My appearing at the TEC [Transitional Executive Committee] yesterday was meeting my responsibilities as a minister in this government to provide information to the organization like the TEC of my own volition. They have no right to summons me, and they will have no right to summons me for next Tuesday either. And the fact that I will be turning up there is because I would like to have clarity on this matter and I am sure the forum would like it as well. Maybe we can help sort the matter out and get back to a normal keel and have the politicians out of the business of housing.

ANC Statement Outlines Policy on Housing

MB0303194994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1919 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Statement issued by the ANC on 3 March on the SAPA PR Wire Service]

[Text] Housing. The problem is staggering 3.5 millions housing units needed just to catch up with the backlog. Over 5 million people in misery in urban squatter camps and informal settlements, their numbers rising by over 200,000 a year; thousands more in unacceptable urban hostels; an unknown number in farm and rural slums. This is not something to be dealt with in some vote-catching 'number contest', like that recently unveiled—and then withdrawn—by the NP [National Party] and Minister Shills.

Housing the homeless will be one of the most critical challenges the new government will face. The ANC [African National Congress] in government will give it an urgent priority. An immediate start will have to be made on it as soon as the new government is formed. The framework of the ANC policy is clear. It rests on the ANC belief that all South Africans have a right to decent and affordable housing; that government must take on the responsibility of directing the management of the available financial, manpower and material resources in order to translate that right into actual homes.

The programme we have adopted is also staggering. It proposes to speed up house building vastly so as to provide 1 million houses within the first five years; to achieve an annual rate of building of 350,000 houses a

year, (compared with the NP government's record figure of 50,000 in 1992). That scale of action will provide affordable for low income families in town and country. It will break the backlog of homelessness and hostel squalor within ten years. No one should underestimate the magnitude of that task.

But can it be done? We are confident that, with the ANC in the driving seat of government, it can. Our programme is not simply a set of aims. It is a realistic statement of the state action that will be taken during the early days of an ANC government.

We propose to set up a single national housing department to replace the wasteful 14 departments left behind by the NP government. We propose to commit greatly increased funds to the housing programme, rising to 5 percent of the state budget with five years. We propose to challenge private financial institutions to match the state contribution of R[and]50 billion over ten years, the funds to be vested in a housing finance bank which will co-ordinate housing subsidies and home loan guarantees.

We will ensure that the available funds are used to meet national priorities, namely: (a) the provision of affordable public and subsidised housing together with a rented sector, especially for low-income families in town and country; (b) a thorough programme of reconstruction of urban hostels into acceptable standard family or single-person homes; (c) the upgrading of existing subsidised housing to meet agreed national minimum standards of construction and service provision.

We will seek to persuade employers and trade unions to plan the provision of housing for their own employees, in reasonable proximity to the workplace. We will explore the possibilities of providing tax or other financial incentives to encourage acceptable schemes.

In accordance with our overall democratic approach, we will strip away the existing covers of secrecy and confidentiality which should housing policies. We will insist on full public disclosure by all housing bodies of all information relating to plans and decisions; that policy making is open and transparent; that all housing organisations are publicly accountable for their actions; and that proper arrangements are made for public participation in policy planning at all levels. This will apply, inter alia, to the setting of minimum constructional standards, the selection of sites and appropriate services for new housing, the overall planning of housing schemes, the allocation of funds to both public and private sector schemes.

We will ensure that the national priorities in other fields are taken fully into account in housing matters. Accordingly, wherever financial parameters can be maintained, we will insist that preference be given to labour intensive schemes in order to put the jobless back to work; and that preference in allotting contracts is given to small

contractors and suppliers in order to redress past discrimination in favour of big business and white entrepreneurs.

These are the basic elements of the ANC programme. It has been developed with inputs from many other organisations which are co-ordinated within the National Housing Forum. At this time it is possible that in that forum further specific propositions may emerge which will be incorporated in our actual programme in government. It is not yet clear which aspects of delivery and execution of a national housing programme will finally be devolved to regional or provincial government structures. But this statement sets out the ANC national programme. It will form the guidelines and set the parameters for all ANC members in public office at any level of the administration.

South African Press Review for 4 Mar

MB0403131094

[Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN

Call for CP, IFP To Register for Election—Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 3 March in a page-6 editorial notes that Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi "is wise" to keep his "options open" by considering to provisionally register his party for the election. He can participate in the election "if he succeeds in getting his basic demands addressed, or he can continue to boycott the election if they are not." THE CITIZEN's advice to the Conservative Party (CP) is to "register—and decide what you want to do afterwards."

THE STAR

Anxiety Over National Peacekeeping Force—Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 4 March in a page-14 editorial believes there are "real reasons for anxiety" over the National Peacekeeping Force (NPKF) members' strike over pay. The strike, as well as reports of "drunkenness, insubordination, desertion and racism within the ranks" reinforces perceptions of the NPKF as "an ill-disciplined, if not mutinous force." "To top it all, the NPKF commander and former military ruler in Venda, Gabriel Ramushwana, has been accused of being in receipt of money from the Venda Pension Fund to which he is not entitled." "Meant to serve as a model for the future, the NPKF has so far been a generator of gloom."

No Time for International Mediation—A second editorial on the same page welcomes international mediation if it will bring Buthelezi back into the constitutional process. "But it needs to be realised that the mere logistics of this process are daunting." The mediators would need more time "than is available before the April election, which it would now be highly unwise if not downright impossible to postpone."

BUSINESS DAY

Inadequate Security for Election Process—"How many times have we heard government and police spokesman saying that 'violence will not be tolerated'?" notes a page-10 editorial in Johannesburg **BUSINESS DAY** in English on 4 March. "With the best will in the world, police cannot guarantee public safety." Just as worrying as the security of the polling stations is "the problem the police will face in combating ordinary crime with their depleted numbers on election days. If 70,000 policemen are indeed going to be on election duty, who is going to be on the beat, or chasing criminals?" Although thousands of foreign monitors will be on hand, "their job is to observe, not keep the peace." "It is hoped that security chiefs will swallow their pride and call on the expertise of their knowledgeable critics in revising their strategies."

SOWETAN

'Disjointed' Freedom Alliance—Johannesburg **SOWETAN** in English on 4 March in a page-10 editorial notes that the latest reports are that "the Conservative Party is so racked by internal dissent that it could see a breakaway rightwing group registering for elections. There is general confusion and distress—not unexpected for a strange and disjointed grouping united only by expedience—in the Freedom Alliance. There is likewise uncertainty in Natal and, it must be said, in the rest of the country. For all these reasons Mandela must have read the signals well—there can be no lasting solution to the country's problems without Buthelezi's inclusion and active co-operation."

CAPE TIMES

'Political Opportunism' in New Housing Scheme—"Housing Minister Louis Shill's unveiling of the government's massive new housing subsidy scheme is a classic example of political opportunism jeopardising political progress," points out Cape Town **CAPE TIMES** in English on 2 March in a page-6 editorial. "If the National Housing Forum [NHF] is correct, and Mr Shill has jeopardised the scheme through a premature announcement, he and his party will have much to answer for. The NHF and the ANC [African National Congress] for that matter should, however, avoid making the threat self-fulfilling." "Just as the incumbent government does not deserve all the blame for failures in the transition process, it cannot claim exclusive ownership of the successes either."

WEEKLY MAIL & GUARDIAN

Official Indifference To Township Bloodletting—Johannesburg **WEEKLY MAIL & GUARDIAN** in English for 4-10 March in a page-16 editorial says: "At first sight, the swift reaction by state and private institutions to the Merriespruit slimes dam disaster seemed to send messages of old. In sharp contrast to the absence of meaningful response to violence on the East Rand, where the average weekend death toll matches that of the dam burst, the 15 white fatalities and destruction of

property in the [Orange] Free State provoked the prompt declaration of a disaster area. Massive aid appeals were launched, topping R[and] 1 million within a week. Why, we might ask, have government and the public not been able to react in a similar fashion to the wholesale destruction of the communities of Thokoza, Katlehong, and Vosloorus? Why is it that an apparent act of God can generate a sense of urgency, while the daily bloodletting in the townships meets increasing official indifference?"

BEELD

De Klerk Shows 'Welcome' Leadership—Johannesburg **BEELD** in Afrikaans on 1 March says in a page-10 editorial: "In his address to Parliament yesterday, State President de Klerk showed why he, as an analytical thinker, has no equal in the government and the National Party. In a short, powerful address he analyzed the state of constitutional negotiations and summed it up in a nutshell, and with a single stroke laid bare the political opportunism of the leaders of the Freedom Alliance. His conclusions were equally convincing: there is no longer any reasonable excuse for nonparticipation in the election and the national constitutional process." "For the first time he left no doubt among Freedom Alliance and left-wing radicals that the government would use every means at its disposal, including the security forces, to protect the democratic process. The firmness with which he declared that the police and the defense force would defend the integrity of the state and the constitution points to a newly found confidence in their loyalty—an assurance which all democrats will welcome and the kind of leadership which the majority of South Africans expect of him. President de Klerk's understanding of the concern of the Zulu king and his followers over the future of the monarchy is only partially shared. We do not believe that the Zulu king ought necessarily to hold a unique position in any constitution. In South Africa, with its unique ethnic diversity, such ethnic exceptions create a recipe for ethnic conflict."

PAC Hostility Toward Journalists Intolerable—A second editorial on page 10 says: "The Pan-Africanist Congress' [PAC] open hostility towards journalists, and in particular white journalists, is becoming intolerable." "At the weekend PAC leaders and supporters called for the summary shooting of white journalists attending the funeral of PAC's Sabelo Phama in Transkei. The guns of the organization's armed wing should be turned on the white journalists, mourners said." "This kind of naked racism is worrying. In the emotionally laden atmosphere of such a funeral things could easily have taken a tragic turn. Until the PAC leadership publicly repudiates these statements, the PAC should not be surprised if journalists give a wide berth to its election rallies. And that could only be to the disadvantage of the PAC itself."

Criticism of Peacekeeping Force Members' Strike—The strike by National Peacekeeping Force members "necessitates urgent and real steps by authorities and leaders involved in the government in the transition process," says a page-10 editorial in Johannesburg **BEELD** in

Afrikaans on 2 March. "It just does not seem as though the peace force is getting its act together." "If there is so much disaffection in the peace force, how on earth will it succeed in ensuring peace during the election itself?" "South Africa's political leaders must realize that the problems in the peace force have the potential to make the transition, which is already proving to be very difficult, even more so. Which is why urgent steps must be taken."

Housing Issue Too Politicized—A second editorial on page 10 of BEELD says: "National Housing Minister Louis Shill yesterday landed in the crossfire once again over his efforts to ease the problems of South Africa's millions of homeless people. In the Transitional Executive Council yesterday Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa of the ANC went so far as to demand Mr. Shill's resignation" for having allegedly acted without the approval of the National Housing Forum. "The announcement of the housing scheme, said Mr. Ramaphosa, was made for political gain in the run-up to the election. Last year Mr. Moses Mayekiso on several occasions accused Mr. Shill of unilateral action. As was the case then, it is difficult to separate valid criticism from politically motivated criticism. One thing is certain: the whole issue of housing has for a long time been highly politicized. In the circumstances, one could hardly imagine that Mr. Shill could believe he could issue such an important announcement unilaterally. The ball is now in Mr. Shill's court to prove that he acted with the necessary support of the National Housing Forum."

ILANGA

Call for Community Protection—Durban ILANGA in Zulu for 28 February-2 March in a page-4 editorial notes it is a "mere eight weeks" before election day. ILANGA cannot figure out "when the ANC, and other groups that are campaigning, will begin preparing to ensure a peaceful election. We do not know when the government itself will flex its muscle to put some fear into these lawbreakers who insist on disrupting the lives of people." "Ideally voters should be experiencing peace already in their communities. Even those from overseas cannot bring peace if there is no peace within the country. We have peace agreements that were signed by various groups in the country, they too are broken day and night and nobody cares. Parties on the election campaign trail have their rallies disrupted by lawless groups, and some party leaders even end up canceling meetings in some areas." "The nation is without any protection. It has become a cardinal sin to belong to a political party, and yet Mr. de Klerk and others say there can be no disruption of elections. Does this mean that the protection of the masses will only begin on election day? We feel that the protection of communities should have long begun, so that come election day all is quiet, with everyone wary of disturbing the peace, but as things are now, lives are in danger. When will the campaign to protect the people of this country from strife begin?"

Angola

UNITA, MPLA Respond to U.S. Ultimatum on Aid

LD0303154794 Lisbon Radio Renascenca in Portuguese to Europe 1130 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Italicized passages recorded]

[Excerpts] The United States has demanded more responsibility from the Angolans. The MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] have until the end of the month to reach some agreement. The two sides are responsible for the death and misery of thousands of people. Now if they do not reach an agreement, U.S. economic aid will be canceled. Anabela Gois.

[Gois] [passage omitted] When faced with the ultimatum, Alcides Sakala [UNITA's representative in Brussels] did not hesitate: UNITA is negotiating with goodwill, if the talks are dragging on the blame lies fully with the MPLA.

[Sakala] *One cannot put things in those terms. As you know UNITA has made all the possible concessions in order that the peace process might advance. At the moment those backing a war solution are the MPLA who launched this offensive against our positions. The MPLA is totally responsible.*

[Gois] Naturally, the MPLA has a different opinion. Despite not having official knowledge of the American ultimatum, Aldemiro Vaz da Conceicao [presidential spokesman] said that only UNITA is creating obstacles to an agreement.

[Conceicao] *The process is taking a long time, not only because of the complexity of the issues being discussed and of the nature of the conflict, but also because of the time-wasting tactics by UNITA, who is interested in seeing the process drag on forever. We will do our utmost to find a solution as soon as possible.*

[Gois] Not even a U.S. ultimatum appears to be enough, for now, to make UNITA and the Angolan Government express their willingness to alter their negotiating strategy. Time will tell whether the United States' threats bear fruit.

UNITA Refuses Further Talks Until Told of Posts

LD0303235994 Lisbon Radio Renascenca in Portuguese to Europe 2100 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] UNITA wants to know which government posts it will be allocated. A source at the [Lusaka] peace talks said UNITA is refusing to negotiate further on national reconciliation without knowing about its participation in central and provincial power. According to the same source, the Angolan Government is willing to hand over

some posts to Savimbi's movement but it does not agree to negotiate the sharing of power in Lusaka in view of the results of the September 1992 elections.

UNITA Official Optimistic About Lusaka Talks

MB0403124094 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1200 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The Lusaka peace talks are set continue today. Contrary to what was expected, there was no plenary meeting yesterday. The mediators took turns meeting the two sides in a bid to find some kind of agreement. Diplomatic sources have said, though, that no such agreement was forthcoming and the mediators would have to make similar efforts today.

Jardo Muecalia, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] representative in Washington, said yesterday that he was optimistic about the outcome of the Lusaka peace talks. He also expressed the hope that the Luanda government would change its attitude. Asked to comment on the talks, Ambassador Muecalia said progress had been made with regard to military and political issues. He noted, however, that such progress had only been possible thanks to the many concessions UNITA has made. He added he hoped the government would also make concessions.

UNITA Ambushes Civilian Vehicle; 17 Killed

MB0303195394 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] In Lusaka, the government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] talk of peace, but here in Angola the situation is paradoxically characterized by UNITA attacks on civilian and other targets. The FAA [Angolan Armed Forces] General Staff announced today that UNITA troops are carrying out violent actions against civilians.

[Begin unidentified army officer recording] An unspecified number of UNITA troops ambushed a civilian vehicle along the Quicabo-Balacende road, 51 km to the northeast of the city of Caxito, Bengo Province, killing 17 civilians, wounding three others, destroying one vehicle, and looting people's property. [end recording]

UNITA Radio Reports Mercenary Attack in Bengo

MB0403060194 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1200 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Eduardo dos Santos continues to display his murderous wrath against innocent civilians in Bengo Province. On 1 and 2 March, Cuban, South African, and Katangese mercenaries, in the service of the Futungo de Belas Palace, once again shelled civilians, using long- and medium-range self-propelled artillery. The mercenaries shelled the villages of Catota and Batuqueiro, on the outskirts of Nambuangongo, causing heavy casualties.

Kandimba Kavava, health director in the region, told our correspondent Octavio Mulangui that 13 civilians, including children, women and old people, were killed in the attack, while about 48 civilians were seriously wounded.

What is more, the mercenaries destroyed the local hospital and 12 civilian houses. The wounded have been admitted to Nambuungongo Central Hospital where they are receiving medical assistance. More than one-third of them have been seriously wounded by Soviet BM-21 rockets.

PDP-ANA Worried About Leader's Disappearance

MB0403104794 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Democratic Party for Progress-Angolan National Alliance, PDP-ANA, supporters in Uige and Zaire Provinces are disappointed with the United Nations' failure to provide information concerning the whereabouts of PDP-ANA leader Nfulumpinga Lando Vitor. He is believed to have been arrested in February of this year, after Andre Santana Pitra Petroff, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party, MPLA-PT, government's interior minister, had accused him of incitement in the incidents that led to Bloody Friday on 22 January of last year in which many citizens of Bakongo origin were murdered by the MPLA-PT's police. PDP-ANA had accused the MPLA-PT government of involvement in that massacre.

Once the PDP-ANA's militants had learned that their leader had been detained, they asked the United Nations to intervene and secure his release, but so far nothing has been said concerning Lando Vitor's whereabouts. This matter is beginning to worry the Angolan opposition.

Lesotho

OAU's Salim Pleased by Resolution of Crisis

MB0403085294 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 0500 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The secretary general of the Organization of African Unity, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, said in Maseru yesterday that he is satisfied that the situation in Lesotho had returned to normalcy following the recent crisis caused by rivalry between two warring factions in the Royal Lesotho Defense Force.

Speaking at a press conference at the end of his two-day visit to Lesotho, Dr. Salim said stability was important not only for Lesotho, but for the rest of the continent. He said he had studied a report by the special envoy of the OAU secretary general to South Africa, Ambassador Legwaila Legwaila of Botswana, whom he sent to Lesotho after the crisis to assess the situation.

The government had embarked on a consultation process which was continuing to bring the two former rival groups in the army together. The demands of the army were being formulated by a 20-man strong unit and discussed by a committee of four principal secretaries, namely of foreign affairs, defense, finance and home affairs. [Lesotho Foreign Affairs Minister] Mr. Qhobela said the army demands would be sifted by the committee and submitted in a final report to the minister of defense. Dr. Salim and his entourage left Lesotho yesterday.

Madagascar

President's Group Views Government Performance

EA0203205094 Antananarivo Radio Madagascar Network in French 1800 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Statement issued by the Rasalama Active Forces Political Department on 1 March; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Political Department notes the following: students' concern over their bursaries; the rushed increase in civil servants' wages that still does not meet their demands; the explosion in prices and inflation, both of which penalize the people; the prices of rice, bread, drugs and even that of charcoal for households; and the decision by the government to reduce the list of imported goods, which contradicts the spirit of liberalization and competition and can only surely favor the emergence of black or parallel markets indicating inconsistency and immaturity in the government's management methods. The Rasalama Active Forces Political Department, which always remains side by side with the people and is ready to continue the struggle, draws the government's attention in particular to the seriousness of this situation, an example of which is the coming civil servants' strike. The Active Forces Political Department calls on the government to find rapid and appropriate solutions to these insufferable problems.

The Political Department believes that the prime minister has only two choices left: He should either resign or should replace ministers who are incompetent.

Mozambique

UN's Ajello Hails Government Troop Demobilization

MB0403123994 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] UN Special Representative Aldo Ajello today granted his usual Friday news conference to the Mozambican and foreign media. Viewing the latest developments in the Mozambican peace process, the UN special representative said he was happy that the government had decided to start demobilizing its forces without waiting for the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] to do the same. Aldo Ajello noted that this is

a sensible and important initiative and he added that work must start now to do away with what he described as technical red tape, so that government and Renamo can start demobilizing their troops as soon as possible. Those troops are currently confined to assembly areas.

[Begin Ajello recording, in English with passage-by-passage translation to Portuguese] I have said that the decision of the government is extremely positive and I would like to stress this point because I think that it is one of few gestures of confidence that we have recorded since the peace process began. I think that Mr. Dhlakama understood that and I think his statement this morning was correct.

Mainly, what the government did was to recognize Renamo's good faith. Renamo was having problems producing its lists of men to be demobilized, but it really wanted to demobilize them. The government offered to get the process under way unilaterally. It was a good and wise decision. At the same time, it helps to build confidence all around.

As for Renamo, I have its first list here. This list was drawn up in conjunction with our officials, so that each soldier will have his own serial number, thereby allowing us to identify each soldier. We will do everything that is needed to [words indistinct] all that data is on our computers. You must be aware that there have been some misunderstandings concerning this list. However, I do not think they will be repeated.

I can see, though, that the government's gesture has produced a positive gesture from the other side, even if this is only a small list. Nonetheless, our people are working on upcoming lists. [end recording]

UN Special Representative Ajello said that the Finance Ministry is working hard to process documentation relating to the subsidies to which soldiers on both sides are entitled. That UN official also disclosed that 45 percent of the government forces expected at the assembly areas have already been registered. A total of 50 percent of the Renamo forces have already been registered. In his opinion, the existing gap is being rapidly bridged.

Renamo Reacts to Government Demobilization Plan

MB0303201394 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1100 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Mozambican Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] movement has expressed concern about the latest government decision to demobilize its troops as soon as possible regardless of whether or not Renamo is ready to do the same.

Renamo said the demobilization of troops from both sides will start simultaneously and in line with a set timetable. The demobilization should have begun two

days ago, but the United Nations did not submit a list of names of Renamo soldiers waiting to be demobilized.

Meanwhile, the United Nations special representative to Mozambique, Mr. Aldo Ajello, has reaffirmed that Mozambique's first multiparty elections will only be held if troops from both sides are demobilized. He dismissed earlier reports that the United Nations might allow the elections to take place even if the Mozambican Government and Renamo still have their respective armies.

Dhlakama 'Positive' on Decision

MB0403092994 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0800 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] NOTICIAS newspaper reports that Afonso Dhlakama, Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] leader, has described as positive the government's decision to unilaterally and partially demobilize its forces. The Renamo leader did, however, express fears concerning the government's seriousness about sticking to its decision. He added that his movement is committed to having its own troop demobilization process begin as soon as possible.

Renamo Absent at Another Cease-Fire Commission Meeting

MB0403055794 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] As was the case yesterday, another meeting of the Cease-Fire Commission failed to take place in Maputo this afternoon, because of the absence of the Mozambique National Resistance's delegation. The meeting was scheduled to discuss four main points: the destruction of obsolete war materiel at assembly areas, the transfer of weapons from assembly areas to regional depots, the start of demobilization process, and incidents in some assembly areas belonging to Renamo.

President Chissano Receives Kenyan, Swazi Ministers

MB0203185594 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] In Maputo this afternoon President of the Republic Joaquim Chissano received Kenyan Foreign Minister Stephen Musyoka. Radio Mozambique learned that the meeting was aimed at boosting cooperation between the two countries, for development and exchange of experiences in the fields of cooperation, health, trade, education, and culture. Stephen Musyoka returns to his country tomorrow.

This afternoon the Mozambican head of state also received Artur Khoza, Swazi minister for natural resources and land utilization. Octavio Mutemba, Mozambican industry and energy minister, said the

cooperation program between Mozambique and Swaziland in the field of power supply was discussed at the meeting.

Kenyan Foreign Minister Ends Visit

MB0303194194 Maputo Radio Maputo in English 1800 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Kenyan Foreign Minister Stephen Musyoka today ended a three-day official visit to Mozambique at the invitation of his counterpart, Dr. Pascoal Mocumbi. During his visit, Mr. Musyoka held talks with Dr. Pascoal Mocumbi on bilateral cooperation between Mozambique and Kenya.

The two countries cooperate in the fields of health, culture, agriculture, trade, and education. An agreement for the purpose was signed between the two countries in 1991 when Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano paid a visit to Kenya.

During the talks in Maputo, the two sides decided to create a joint commission aimed at boosting their cooperation. Kenya has offered to host the first meeting of the commission in Nairobi on a date to be announced. The Kenyan foreign minister abruptly canceled a news conference he was scheduled to give in Maputo this morning on the last day of his visit, claiming that he had other businesses at the same time, which could not be postponed.

Zambia

Lusaka Reportedly Center for Stolen Car Racket

MB0303193494 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 3 Mar 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There is more embarrassment for the government of President Chiluba in Zambia. The capital, Lusaka, already branded the center for the international illegal drug trade, is now being branded the center of another criminal racket. It seems if you have an expensive car stolen in southern Africa, it is quite likely to turn up in Lusaka, as Joe Mwinga reports in this fax from Lusaka:

An international ring of car thieves is doing a roaring business, swooping top cars for hard drugs, and into the bargain causing the Zambian Government extreme embarrassment. Last month, a Mercedes Benz car belonging to the Namibian Prime Minister, Hage Geingob, surfaced here in Lusaka a few days after it was stolen from Windhoek. Three weeks later, seven cars, including a Toyota Land Cruiser belonging to the International Labor Organization, were stolen from Mozambique. They were later intercepted in Lusaka, and now

yet another car belonging to a leading politician in the sub-region has surfaced in Lusaka. The ANC [African National Congress] president, Nelson Mandela, recently had his family car, a Mercedes Benz, stolen from South Africa. Investigators traced the car to Lusaka, where its new owner, a senior bank official is insisting he bought the car through the normal channels and has refused to relinquish it. The ANC representative in Lusaka, Jaffat Ndhlovu, told me this morning that the Mandela family is taking legal action to get the car back.

Zimbabwe

Court Repeals Colonial Law on Public Demonstrations

MB0203145294 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1100 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The Zimbabwean Supreme Court has repealed a 34-year-old law used by the Rhodesian and the Zimbabwean Governments to stop political opponents holding public demonstrations.

The court ruled that the section of the Law and Order Maintenance Act that made demonstrations illegal, unless they had the approval of the police, was in conflict with the Zimbabwean Bill of Rights which guaranteed freedom of association. The challenge to the law was brought by members of the Zimbabwean Congress of Trade Unions who were arrested in 1992 for staging a procession in Harare after police refused to approve it.

They pleaded not guilty on the grounds that the law infringed their constitutional rights and the case was referred to the Supreme Court.

Farm Seized by State Leased To Education Minister

MB0303203994 London BBC World Service in English 1740 GMT 3 Mar 94

[From the "African News" program]

[Text] The authorities in Zimbabwe have revealed that the first white-owned farm seized under controversial legislation to resettle landless black farmers has instead been leased to a government minister. Officials said the 3,000-hectare farm was intended for more than 30 landless peasant families. Instead, the five-year lease was granted to the former Agriculture Minister Witness Mangwende who is now the education minister. The white dominated Commercial Farmers Union has criticized the allocation of a farm to a minister, saying it is an abuse of the land reform program. The Agriculture Ministry has defended the deal, saying it was covered by the Tenant Resettlement Scheme for the rental of commercial property.

Cote d'Ivoire

Ruling PDCI To Hold Extraordinary Congress
AB0403143194 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 4 Mar 94 p 4

[Article by Diaby Salif]

[Excerpt] Where is the Democratic Party of Cote d'Ivoire- African Democratic Rally [PDCI-RDA] heading to? What will its activists do with the legacy of their founding father, President Houphouet-Boigny? These crucial questions were raised by PDCI-RDA Secretary General Laurent Dona-Fologo at a meeting with members of the party's political bureau at the party house in Cocody yesterday afternoon.

This is the party's first meeting since the death of President Houphouet-Boigny. On the occasion, Mr. Dona-Fologo announced that the PDCI-RDA will hold its extraordinary congress in April as stipulated in Article 25 of the standing rules. The congress will focus on the vacant party chairmanship post and the need to fill that prestigious post. [passage omitted]

Liberia

ULIMO Leader Reports Fierce Fighting With NPFL

AB0303193994 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 3 Mar 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia], one of the three signatories of Liberia's Cotonou Peace Accord, along with the interim government, and Charles Taylor's NPFL [National Patriotic Forces of Liberia], seems to be in some difficulties. There have been reports that its soldiers at Tubmanburg have been refusing to allow ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African State Cease-fire Monitoring Group] troops to deploy, insisting that they should receive money in exchange for the arms they surrender. They have sacked their representative on the Transitional Council that is supposed to guide the country to elections later this year. And now ULIMO's chairman, Alhaji Koromah, has called us up from Monrovia to say there is fresh fighting going on. Josephine Hazely asked him what his claim was:

[Begin recording] [Koromah] Well, it is very unfortunate that today we have had to send a letter to ECOMOG informing them on an emergency basis that Charles Taylor's NPFL has launched unprovoked attacks for the past three days against ULIMO positions, one in the Salayie district near the town of Golu, under the command of one so-called Major Black Gina of the NPFL. They attacked our forces, wounding three of them, and fierce fighting is now going on.

[Hazely] Where is the other attack?

[Koromah] The other attack is in the Foya district, a place called Palm Bay Farm, commonly called Vietnam, where General Faya of the NPFL, along with the Revolutionary United Front forces, have attacked the surrounding villages and killed about 24 to 26 civilians. Our forces have engaged them and for the past four days fierce fighting has been going on. He is busy attacking... [pauses] making fresh attacks on our position which we have no alternative but to resist.

[Hazely] Are you sure of your facts here, Alhaji Koromah, because people will find these claims that you are making unbelievable. Why would Mr. Taylor want to attack ULIMO positions at this time? Why?

[Koromah] We don't know, because we have been hearing lots of rumors that he wants to connect by land between Bong County and Sierra Leone. A lot of [words indistinct] born in Sierra Leone, because he wants to send some of his arms, his military arms, to Fode Sankor so that when the government is seated he can launch a full-scale attack. And also he does not intend to be disarmed totally. He wants an opportunity of unseating the government. So clearly because the attacks that we are getting are coming from both the Sierra Leone end and the Bong County end. So this confirms the speculation that he is trying to make a land connection between Bong County and Sierra Leone, but that cannot be... [pauses] we cannot accept that to be a monkey wrench, because he threw a monkey wrench in this peace process.

[Hazely] But where are the peacekeepers? I thought, perhaps, the peacekeepers—UNOMIL [United Nations Observe Mission in Liberia]—are all over Liberia keeping watch.

[Koromah] They are not all over, they are not all over. They are in few places closer to Monrovia.

[Hazely] Yesterday, we got a report that your forces were refusing to hand over their weapons to the peacekeeping force, the African peacekeeping force, and they were saying they wanted money in exchange. Is this perhaps... [pauses] these claims you are making, could it not be that you want to deflect attention from the problems within your organization?

[Koromah] Well, let me tell you something. I told one of your colleagues before that your reporter that you have here must be in the employ of somebody because, in the first place, ECOMOG will not tell you that they sent any troops toward Po River, and whatever contingent of ECOMOG, he should ask them if they even went near Po River. There was nobody present, there has been no schedule for Po River and Tubmanburg where our headquarter is, and we have made it clear that the troops will be deployed in Boming Hills as they are deployed in Gbarnga.

[Hazely] Couldn't there be a split in your movement also in terms of the replacing of Dr. Mohammed Sheriff with

Thomas Ziah and perhaps your troops are fighting over that, and you are claiming now that it is Taylor who is fighting?

[Koromah] That has nothing to do with the attacks against our forces. What I am trying to say about the attacks can be verified. The areas are approachable so that shouldn't be a mystery to you. If there are problems within our organization, okay, that is natural, and we are going to deal with those problems today and tomorrow and you will hear the results of that particular problem of the question of how elections are carried out in the Council of State. But that does not mean we will sit here and allow that to cover the heinous crime of attacks against not only ULIMO soldiers but also the 24 to 36 elders and children that were killed. The Kissi people in Foya district were killed by General Faya, who is also a Kissi, but he is a general of NPFL. He is says that his people are exposing him to ULIMO, and I think everybody has listened to this particular interview from the Foya district that are now in Lofa can attest to this. [end recording]

Mali

Violence, Vandalism Said Continuing in Bamako

Release of Student Leader Sought

AB0303173394 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali Radio in French 1500 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Vandals committed acts of violence in Bamako yesterday evening. Traffic lights in the Koura neighborhood of Bamako were destroyed, and electricity substations in Kinsambougou and (Bagadajeda) were damaged. The Jamana publishing house and the annex of the Ministry of Economic Affairs were also seriously damaged. The police made some arrests. (?CNID Fato Yirouaton) sent us a communique calling for the immediate release of the Association of Malian Students and Pupils [AEEM] secretary general, Yehia Zarawana, and his friends, in order that a frank and constructive dialogue might be initiated. This is the sole condition needed to get the country out of the crisis. According to the (?CNID), it has always fought for democratic ideals and cannot accept repression against the AEEM, which is an important component of the democratic movement.

Minister Holds News Conference

AB0303202594 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali Radio in French 1500 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The communication and culture minister held the weekly press briefing at his office this morning. He spoke about the arrest of the Association of Malian Students and Pupils secretary general, as well as the latest upsurge in violence. Boubakar Toure has the details:

[Begin recording] [Toure] The minister first spoke on the cabinet's adoption of a draft bill on methods of taxing public contracts in the state budget. This measure was

aimed at avoiding double tax exemptions and curbing government spending. The minister and the newsmen spoke at length on recent developments in the school crisis, especially the confirmation that the AEEM secretary general had been arrested, as well as the violent incidents of 2 March. Minister Cheickna Kamissoko was unequivocal about this. He condemned vandalism and stated that no one was above the law. Zanarawa had to be brought to justice.

[Kamissoko] Yehia Zarawana was indeed arrested yesterday morning by the police. Just like the other students who had been arrested before him, he will have to answer for acts that he has publicly acknowledged and admitted to in a radio broadcast. It is at his instigation and that of his association that students, and others who were not even students—this has been proven by those who were judged initially—set up roadblocks and vandalized public and private buildings, property, and health vehicles and [words indistinct] Unfortunately, the same thing happened last year in the suburbs. That was the result of an action that he masterminded and claimed responsibility for. The situation is very clear. When one accepts responsibility for a criminal act one has to answer for it. In that sense, no one can be above the law.

[Toure] The minister also stressed that this could have a spillover effect on highway banditry. He urged parents to assume their responsibilities. Furthermore, he said the government was open to dialogue and that schools would be reopened as soon as the situation was favorable. When questioned on the situation in the north following Saloum Bilal's death, the minister conceded that tension was high in the region, and that a commission of enquiry would be dispatched to the area to throw more light on the matter. [end recording]

France's Roussin Discounts Rumored Second Devaluation

AB0303193694 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali Radio in French 1500 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Excerpts] French Cooperation Minister Michel Roussin arrived in Bamako early this afternoon on a 48-hour visit. He was welcomed upon his descent from the plane by Mrs. Sy Kadiatou Sow, the minister of foreign affairs, Malians abroad and African integration and Jean-Didier Roisin, the French ambassador to Mali. The French cooperation minister spoke, among other things, on the backup measures taken by France in the wake of the devaluation. [passage omitted] Concerning an eventual second devaluation, an issue raised at the recent African finance ministers meeting in Libreville, this is what Mr. Roussin had to say:

[Begin Roussin recording] I was not in Libreville. However, I had the pleasure of holding a telephone conversation with President Bongo. I also read the report from that meeting, and I did not glean anywhere the possibility of a second devaluation. The wisdom of the African heads of state is such that this information seems to me erroneous. [end recording]

Niger

Libyan Delegation Ends Working Visit To Tahoua

AB0303153494 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1900 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] A Libyan delegation led by Abdul Hamid Amar, member of the committee of the revolutionary movement of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah, has ended its working visit to Tahoua Department. A joint communiqué was issued at the end of the visit. Ibrahim Mahama has the details.

[Begin Mahama recording] The Libyan delegation began the week with visits to several places in the municipal areas and districts of Tahoua, Tchén-Tabaraden, and Abarakat. The delegation also met businessmen of the department and [words indistinct] expressed their satisfaction with the signing of the cooperation agreement between Niger and Libya following the fourth session of the Niger-Libya Joint Commission of Cooperation held in Tripoli from 7 to 12 February. The businessmen in Tahoua Department expressed the hope of seeing the implementation of the general cooperation agreement, especially that on trade.

Furthermore, a working session was held between delegations of the two countries [words indistinct]. At the end of the discussions, the committee of the revolutionary movement of Libya pledged to grant emergency medical and school supplies to Tahoua Department. The committee also pledged to oversee the opening and functioning of the Tchén-Tabaraden Franco-Arab (center) and to undertake necessary additional rehabilitation works at (Kabara Char) High School. Moreover, the two sides agreed to the scrupulous respect of [words indistinct] cultural week. [end recording]

Nigeria

Abacha Discusses Cameroon Situation With Eyadema

AB0303190594 Paris AFP in French 1836 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Abuja, 3 Mar (AFP)—A source close to the Nigerian presidency stated that Nigerian President Sani Abacha discussed the border dispute between his country and Cameroon with Togolese counterpart Gnassingbe Eyadema today. The source did not specify the content of the discussion, but indicated that the meeting—which took place in the presidential lounge of the Abuja International Airport—was “frank and cordial.” The Togolese head of state held talks earlier with Cameroonian President Paul Biya.

Minister on Eyadema-Abacha Talks

AB0303225994 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The Togolese president, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, flew to Abuja this evening from Yaounde, capital of Cameroon, to discuss with the head of state, General Sani Abacha, the Nigerian-Cameroon affairs over the Bakassi Peninsula. President Eyadema had held about two and half hours' discussion with President Paul Biya in Cameroon before coming to Abuja. His talks with the Nigerian head of state took place at the special lounge of the Abuja International Airport. The meeting lasted about one and a half hours, after which President Eyadema returned to Lome. Nigeria's foreign affairs minister, Ambassador Babagana Kingibe, later talked to State House correspondents on the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Kingibe] Well, as you know, the relations between Nigeria and Togo, they have always been excellent and very, very close. Nigeria and Togo have always taken initiatives jointly, initiatives of a kind that is aimed at advancing the process of integration, the process of understanding, and the process of cooperation in our subregion. And it is in this context of regular and close consultation between Togo and Nigeria that the President of Togo came for about a three-hour visit. Of course, when two leaders of the region, like they did, meet, of course they would discuss current issues, they would discuss issues of concern to the region, issues of concern to the OAU, and that kind of review of...

[Unidentified Correspondent, interrupting] Excuse me, sir. The Togolese head of state was supposed to have held some two hours' meeting with the Cameroonian president. What would he bring by way of the kind Cameroonian [words indistinct]?

[Kingibe] I am sure that the president of Togo would have briefed the head of state on the consultations he might have held with the president of Cameroon. Mind you, I think it is a presumption that they would have discussed the dispute over the Bakassi. But whatever it is, they held a tete-a-tete meeting, a closed-door meeting between the two of them. We have been informed that the meeting had been in the usual brotherly atmosphere, and had been fruitful, and that both leaders emerged happy from the meeting.

[Correspondent] What is the latest situation at the Bakassi Peninsula?

[Kingibe] Well, I think that troops are maintaining their code of conduct, which is, not to be provocative, not to provoke any incidents and maintain their positions, and not to initiate any action, except perhaps in self-defense. And it has been quiet since, and I am glad about that because we do need a quiet atmosphere in the field in order to allow us to take up the diplomatic way forward.

[Correspondent] Have you heard anything on President Biya's proposals to Nigeria?

[Kingibe] The position is that when earlier on, before the introduction of a new element by the arrival of the French troops, we were in close consultation and constant touch. And the process of consultation between the two heads of state led to our head of state inviting the president of Cameroon to come to Abuja for discussions. And after further consultations the president of Cameroon accepted it. In fact, he suggested that perhaps, symbolically, they should meet at a border town, and he suggested that perhaps Maiduguri would be a symbolically more appropriate place to meet. To which the head of state agreed. And the head of state went further—as a gracious host—to say to President Biya that he can pick or choose any date of convenience to him, he is waiting for him. And we are at this stage, and I am sure that the meeting will come off as soon as President Biya consults his diary, and a convenient time is found, I am sure he will come.

Diplomatic Efforts Started at UN Against Cameroon Move

*AB0403133394 Dakar PANA in English 1055 GMT
4 Mar 94*

[Excerpts] New York, 3 March (PANA)—Nigeria has launched a diplomatic offensive at the United Nations to counter that of Cameroon in their dispute over the Bakassi Peninsula in the Gulf of Guinea. Nigeria's deputy permanent representative to the UN, Isaac Ayewa, said on Thursday [3 March] that the mission had embarked on a "one-on-one consultation" with members of the UN Security Council to [word indistinct] Nigeria's side of the dispute.

On Tuesday, Cameroon took the dispute to the UN when its foreign minister, Ferdinand Oyono, sent a letter to the world body requesting an urgent meeting of the Security Council over the dispute. [passage omitted]

The Nigerian mission on Thursday met the Non-aligned caucus of the 15-member Security Council, of which Nigeria is a member. Ayewa said that the main thrust of the mission's efforts was to "stall the actual consideration of the subject matter" by the council to give bilateral discussions by the two countries a chance. A reliable source said Abuja would soon reply to the Cameroonian letter.

"Nigeria believes in good neighbourliness, and since there is a [word indistinct] swell of goodwill between Nigeria and Cameroon, the two countries should be able to solve their problems without any international mediation," the source said.

The council, presided over by the French ambassador, Jean-Bernard Merimee, the rotational president for the month of March, met on Thursday to consider its programme of work, but did not discuss the dispute. Nigeria's ambassador to the U.S., Zubair Kazaure, has also briefed State Department officials and some members of the U.S. Congress on the conflict. [passage omitted]

Niger University Students Occupy Lagos Embassy *AB0303150694 Paris AFP in English 1428 GMT 3 Mar 94*

[Text] Lagos, March 3 (AFP)—About 100 students from Niger, currently on hunger strike, are occupying their embassy in Lagos in protest against the non-payment of arrears of bursary allowance by Niamey, a student spokesman said Thursday [3 March].

The students, who last Monday began a "sit-in" strike at the embassy and who have disrupted activities at the mission, Wednesday sent a telex message to authorities in Niamey on their grievances. Adamou Tahirou, Vice President of the Union of Niger Students in Nigeria, told AFP.

Niamey has also yet to pay the students, who are studying sciences, banking, engineering, computer science, business administration and arts in Nigerian universities, registration fees for last year and this year as well as other allowances, Adamou said.

In a telex message Wednesday by the embassy, a copy of which was shown to AFP, the mission urged the government of Niger to send buses to Nigeria to "repatriate" the students immediately because the embassy might not be able to take care of the cost of the hospitalisation of the students, some of whom are already suffering from "physical weakness".

"The students are in a catastrophic situation" following non-payment of seven months of arrears of their allowances, according to the embassy.

Niger's ambassador to Nigeria, Maman Mansour, confirmed to AFP the "sit-in" strike of the students and the debt of seven months arrears of grants to the students.

Togo

Eyadema Returns From Visits to Cameroon, Nigeria *AB0303223994 Lome Radio Lome in French 2200 GMT 3 Mar 94*

[Text] President Gnassingbe Eyadema returned to Lome this evening following a short working visit to Cameroon and Nigeria. He was met at the Lome-Tokoin International Airport by Premier Koffigoh and several ministers. Following military honors, the head of state and the prime minister met in the Airport VIP Lounge, where they spoke for several minutes. President Eyadema's visits to Yaounde and Abuja came at a time of high tension between the two countries. The tension resulted from the border dispute over the Bakassi Peninsula. In Yaounde, President Eyadema held a long discussion with President Paul Biya. He did the same with General Abacha in Abuja. President Eyadema and his delegation were pleased with contacts made with the authorities of the two countries. President Eyadema was accompanied by Mr. Barry Moussa Barque, his special adviser; Foreign Minister Fambare Natchaba, Defense Minister Inoussa Bouraima, and Former Minister Atsu Koffi Amegah.

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